

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2439

To save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property through improved State and local fire safety and prevention education, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 12), 1994

Mr. BRYAN (for himself and Mr. GORTON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property through improved State and local fire safety and prevention education, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fire Safety and Pre-
5 vention Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) fire losses in the United States are esti-
9 mated at 5,000 deaths and 29,000 injuries annually,

1 producing an economic loss conservatively estimated
2 at \$10,000,000,000 per year, plus more than
3 \$1,000,000,000 a year in health care costs;

4 (2) sustained and targeted fire safety and pre-
5 vention education at the State and local levels, par-
6 ticularly in identifiable high-risk populations, pro-
7 duces dramatic results in preventing fires, fire
8 deaths, and dollar losses from fire;

9 (3) in recent years, the fire safety and preven-
10 tion education budgets of fire departments in the
11 United States have been cut dramatically or, in
12 many cases, eliminated;

13 (4) there is a need to expand the availability of
14 State and local fire safety and prevention education
15 programs and supporting resources and materials to
16 help State agencies and local fire departments in
17 carrying out effective public education;

18 (5) fire departments in other countries with
19 fewer fire deaths per capita than the United States
20 spend an average of 4 to 10 percent of the budgets
21 of the departments on fire prevention, versus less
22 than 3 percent for United States fire departments;
23 and

24 (6) only by accurately collecting and analyzing
25 data on fire deaths, injuries, and dollar losses can

1 United States fire departments target the popu-
2 lations and regions where educational efforts are
3 most needed to create a more efficient and effective
4 use of resources.

5 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

6 As used in this Act:

7 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
8 trator” means the Administrator of the United
9 States Fire Administration.

10 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible en-
11 tity” means the office of the State fire marshal for
12 a State or an equivalent State office having primary
13 responsibility for fire safety and prevention in the
14 State.

15 (3) FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION EDUCATION
16 PROGRAM.—The term “fire safety and prevention
17 education program” means a program that includes
18 publications, audiovisual presentations, or dem-
19 onstrations, concerning fire safety and prevention.

20 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means any
21 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
22 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United
23 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the
24 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

1 and any other territory or possession of the United
2 States.

3 **SEC. 4. FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION EDUCATION.**

4 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Administrator may enter into
5 a contract or cooperative agreement with, or make a grant
6 to, an eligible entity in order to obtain and distribute, at
7 the State and local level, fire safety and prevention edu-
8 cation programs and supporting educational resources.

9 (b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Of the amounts received by an
10 eligible entity under subsection (a)—

11 (1) not more than 25 percent may be used for
12 statewide fire safety and prevention education pro-
13 grams;

14 (2) not more than 25 percent may be used to
15 implement new regional or local fire safety and pre-
16 vention education programs targeting high-risk pop-
17 ulations; and

18 (3) not less than 50 percent shall be used for
19 awards, of not more than \$10,000 each, for regional
20 or local fire safety and prevention education pro-
21 grams, in existence on the day before the date of re-
22 ceipt of the amounts, that have been demonstrated
23 to be effective in preventing fires, fire deaths and in-
24 juries, and dollar losses from fire.

1 **SEC. 5. DATA COLLECTION.**

2 The Administrator may enter into a contract or coop-
3 erative agreement with, or make a grant to, a State for
4 the purpose of implementing the revised National Fire In-
5 cident Reporting System at the National Fire Data Cen-
6 ter, established under section 9 of the Federal Fire Pre-
7 vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208), to im-
8 prove and enhance the collection and analysis of fire data
9 at the State and local levels.

10 **SEC. 6. APPLICATIONS.**

11 Each eligible entity or State desiring a contract, co-
12 operative agreement, or grant under this Act shall submit
13 an application to the Administrator at such time, in such
14 manner, and accompanied by such information as the Ad-
15 ministrator may reasonably require.

16 **SEC. 7. REPORTS AND EVALUATION.**

17 (a) ANNUAL REPORT TO ADMINISTRATOR.—An eligi-
18 ble entity receiving funds under section 4 shall prepare
19 and submit to the Administrator an annual report that
20 contains such information as the Administrator may re-
21 quire. At a minimum, the report shall describe each pro-
22 gram activity undertaken with the funds, including a de-
23 scription of—

24 (1) any fire safety and prevention education
25 program that has been developed directly or indi-

1 rectly by the eligible entity and the target population
2 of the program;

3 (2) any support material that has been obtained
4 and the method by which the material is distributed;
5 and

6 (3) any initiative undertaken by the entity to
7 develop a public-private partnership to secure non-
8 Federal support for the development or distribution
9 of a program or material in furtherance of this Act.

10 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall
11 prepare and submit an annual report to Congress, includ-
12 ing a description of each fire safety and prevention edu-
13 cation program undertaken and any material developed or
14 distributed by each eligible entity receiving funds under
15 section 4.

16 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 (a) FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION EDUCATION.—
18 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sec-
19 tion 4 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1996 and
20 1997, of which not more than \$500,000 may be spent for
21 any fiscal year on administrative costs.

22 (b) DATA COLLECTION.—There are authorized to be
23 appropriated to carry out section 5 \$2,500,000 for fiscal
24 year 1995, of which not more than \$300,000 shall be
25 spent on administrative costs.

1 (c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available pursu-
2 ant to subsection (a) or (b) shall remain available until
3 expended.

